

Dr. Seuss Activity Idea List

Note: The activities listed below are generally for small groups/classrooms. If a large group event is planned, some of these would work well like a carnival, where families go from table to table to participate.

AND TO THINK THAT I SAW IT ON MULBERRY STREET

- ☐ Discuss how reporters get their information and the difference between fact and fiction.
- ☐ Play an observation game: Have everyone study one page of a newspaper for 60 seconds. Put the newspaper away and ask questions about the pictures and headlines.
- ☐ Take a regular short news story and "jazz it up" like Marco did.
- ☐ Write your own classroom version using the name of the street of your school.

BARTHOLOMEW AND THE OOBLECK

- ☐ Make Oobleck.
- ☐ Discuss your favorite kind of weather.
- ☐ Practice reading thermometers.
- ☐ Brainstorm "weather" words and then categorize them.
- ☐ Look at the weather information in a newspaper and notice the symbols to represent differing weather. Design a new symbol for Oobleck.
- ☐ If there is an emergency in your city, how do people find out? How do they receive a warning?
- ☐ If you could make anything you wanted to fall from the sky, what would it be? Write a news story as if it really happened.

THE BIG BRAG

- ☐ Compare and contrast animals. Is there a way to prove that one is better than the other? What would be the criteria for discerning that?

THE BUTTER BATTLE BOOK

- ☐ Identify the theme and topics of the book.
- ☐ Defend your reasons to be a Yook of a Zook.
- ☐ Eat bread with the butter side down.

THE CAT IN THE HAT

- ☐ Discuss "home" rules for being at home when parents are gone.
- ☐ Discuss knowing your address and how to contact help if there is an emergency.
- ☐ Make cards with home and emergency contact information for the students to keep in their backpacks.
- ☐ List things you can do on a rainy day.
- ☐ Count and list objects the Cat can balance.
- ☐ Have a relay race while balancing an eraser on the heads of the students.
- ☐ Re-write this story from the Cat's perspective.
- ☐ Design a machine that would clean up your bedroom.
- ☐ Play "Simon Says" using "The Cat Says".
- ☐ Play Pin the Hat on the Cat (a version of pin the tail on the donkey).
- ☐ Make paper hats like the Cat's

COME OVER TO MY HOUSE

- ☐ Make a collage of houses cut from magazines.

DR. SEUSS' ABC BOOK

- ☐ Alphabet dot-to-dot worksheets.
- ☐ Matching game with upper and lower case letters.
- ☐ ABC Bingo
- ☐ Have students line up in alphabetical order.

THE EYE BOOK

- ☐ Talk about proper eye care.
- ☐ Write a poem about eyes.

THE 500 HATS OF BARTHOLOMEW CUBBINS

- ☐ Count to 500 by tens, fives, etc.
- ☐ Graph a collection of hats.
- ☐ Discuss hats and their meanings for certain occupations or locations/countries.
- ☐ Use tally marks for counting, ie: girls in the room, pencils in the class, cars in the parking lot, etc.
- ☐ Make newspaper hats and hold a hat fashion parade.



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THE FOOT BOOK

- ☐ Count the number of feet in the room, then recount by 2.
- ☐ Play Twister.
- ☐ Graph shoes according to characteristics.
- ☐ Pile shoes and then race to see who can get their shoes on first.
- ☐ Each student removes one shoe and they are piled in a heap. On the count of three, each child grabs a loose shoe and then tries to find the person who matches that shoe.
- ☐ Do a relay race with the shoes at one end of the room and teams who race to put on their shoes.
- ☐ Make a pattern with the kids shoes.
- ☐ Feet shaped cookies to frost, with jelly bellies added for toes.

FOX IN SOCKS

- ☐ Use as an introduction to rhyming words.
- ☐ Crazy Socks Day
- ☐ Cut pairs of socks from wall paper books. Young students can match the socks. Older students can match them with a game of "concentration" where the socks are arranged upside down and students take turns turning over two socks. If they match, the student gets a point and removes them. If they don't match, they are turned upside down again and the game continues with the next student.

GREEN EGGS & HAM

- ☐ Make and serve green eggs & ham.
- ☐ List green foods.
- ☐ List foods that you formerly didn't like, but now you do. List food that you don't like now, will you possibly like them in the future?
- ☐ Rhyming Bingo.
- ☐ Discuss animals that lay eggs other than chickens.
- ☐ Eggshell art.
- ☐ Play tic-tac-toe: draw and cut out nine eggs, coloring three of them green. Attempt to get three green eggs in a row.
- ☐ Make a classroom cook book where each student contributes one favorite recipe.

HOP ON POP

- ☐ Kids hop on bubble wrap.
- ☐ Rhyming Bingo.
- ☐ One student says a word, the next student rhymes with it, then a third student and so on until you can't rhyme with that word any longer.
- ☐ Hold a sack race with burlap bags.

HORTON HATCHES THE EGG

- ☐ Create some animals by crossing two: alligator with giraffe, etc.
- ☐ Discuss the qualities that made Horton a good choice to sit on the egg.
- ☐ On a map, find all of the places mentioned in the story.
- ☐ Divide the class and debate: one group argues why Mazie should get the egg and the other group argues why Horton should get the egg.
- ☐ Make Egg Carton Critters: cut apart the "cup" sections of egg cartons. Keep two or three connected for animals with humps or more humps in a row for caterpillars. Use pipe cleaners for legs, necks, antlers, etc., and markers to decorate.
- ☐ Students write a poem titled: If I had the faithfulness of Horton.

HORTON HEARS A WHO

- ☐ Examine a speck of dust under a microscope.
- ☐ Place objects in order by small, smaller and smallest.
- ☐ Each student makes an animal sound for the others to guess.
- ☐ Discuss the five senses.

HOORAY FOR DIFFENDOOFER DAY!

- ☐ Help students write a song about their school. Choose a well known jingle or nursery rhyme for the tune.

I CAN LICK 30 TIGERS TODAY!

- ☐ Reinforces subtraction and word problems. "If the cat started with 30 tigers and now has 22, how many tigers did he send away?"
- ☐ Why does the cat keep sending the tigers away? Why does he want to fight the tigers?"

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IF I RAN THE ZOO

- ☐ Discuss the responsibilities of a zoo keeper.
- ☐ Students draw their own zoo creatures.
- ☐ Students use clay to make their own zoo creatures.

THE KING'S STILTS

- ☐ Make stilts with coffee cans & thin rope.
- ☐ Pretend you are the king or queen of a country. What would be your responsibilities? What would be the fun parts of your job?
- ☐ Are there jobs where stilts would be useful?
- ☐ Find jobs listed in the newspaper. Categorize them by jobs in the morning, jobs in the afternoon, jobs in the evening and jobs in the night time.
- ☐ Are there animals that work? Make a list or some drawings.

THE LORAX

- ☐ Discuss the importance of trees for people and animals.
- ☐ Design a poster to discourage the destruction of trees and respect for the environment.
- ☐ Plant a tree.
- ☐ Plant some seeds.
- ☐ Make a tree mural.
- ☐ Have a scavenger hunt with items from nature: stone, pinecone, seed, leaves, twig, stick, bugs, clover leaf, etc.
- ☐ Do a community service project to pick up litter.
- ☐ Prepare a tray of assorted foods that grow on trees. Cut them up and share to enjoy.
- ☐ Collect stories and make a book about endangered plants and animals.

MARVIN K MOONEY WILL YOU PLEASE GO NOW?

- ☐ Line up to follow the leader and experiment with different ways to leave an area or a room - hopping, holding an elephant's tail, riding a bike, etc.

OH! THE THINKS YOU CAN THINK!

- ☐ Students write about their own wacky inventions and draw a picture.

OH! SAY CAN YOU SAY?

- ☐ Write some tongue twisters.
- ☐ Hold a tongue twister contest.

ONE FISH, TWO FISH, RED FISH, BLUE FISH

- ☐ Activities with colors and numbers. Use multicolored "goldfish" crackers, make graphs.
- ☐ Create a Venn Diagram: Cut out three equal sets of paper fish: red, blue, and the third group colored a combination of both red & blue. Place a red and a blue hoop, or yarn circles, on the floor, overlapping to create a third section in the middle. Lead the students to sort red fish into the red circle, blue fish into the blue one, then ask where the 2-colored (red&blue) fish would go..lead them to put them in the center where the 2 circles overlap. A venn diagram could also be drawn on paper to illustrate or give each a picture of a Venn Diagram and a set of objects (such as more fish, or a different set of pictures to sort)to reinforce and assess understanding.

THE SHAPE OF ME AND OTHER STUFF

- ☐ Identify the theme and topics of the book.
- ☐ Color/Shape Bingo
- ☐ Show silhouettes of objects and animals and have students name the shapes.
- ☐ Sort and graph various shapes of gum.

THE SNEETCHES

- ☐ Beach Party hotdog roast
- ☐ Stars pinned or stamped onto shirts.
- ☐ Play Sneetch Beach Ball: Each person gets a star to wear on their bellies and every other person gets two stars. Using a beach ball, pass the ball to someone who is "different from you". A one-star must pass the ball to a two-star. If someone passes the ball to the "same kind", they are out. When only one kind of star-belly is left, they declare their team the winner.
- ☐ Discuss equality: a good resource for MLK Day.

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TEN APPLES UP ON TOP

- ☐ Crumple newspaper into a ball. Can you balance it on your head?
- ☐ Make a list of objects that would be easy to balance on your head and a list of objects that would be difficult. Use a magazine for ideas.
- ☐ What items do we use for balance? scales, good eating habits, etc.
- ☐ Photocopy a photo of each student onto a sheet of paper. Fill a basket with numbers from one to the number of students. Students randomly pick a number for the number of apples they can balance on their heads. Each student writes the sentence, filling in the information "_____ has _____ apples up on top". Apple cut outs or stickers are glued upon their heads. Display in numerical order.

WACKY WEDNESDAY

- ☐ Read the book, talking about the wacky things and the misspelled words.
- ☐ Dress up wacky with shirts on backwards, different colored socks, shoes on the wrong feet.
- ☐ Create a wacky environment in the classroom with signs upside down etc.
- ☐ Eat with popsicle sticks, eat breakfast in the afternoon, serve unusual food combinations.
- ☐ Learn to write and say your name backwards, talk in pig latin, say the ABC's backwards, say bye bye for hello, etc.

YERTLE THE TURTLE

- ☐ Paper Plate Turtles: Two paper plates with one decorated as the top of a turtle shell and the other one as the under shell. Cut and decorate head and feet from construction paper. Staple together with the plates making a shell and the head and feet positioned between the paper plates.
- ☐ Make a list of things that are high in the sky.
- ☐ Discuss people you know who are happy. Discuss what it means to be free.
- ☐ Have students draw a turtle without a shell and write about how that might feel for the turtle.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

- ☐ Identify the Theme and Topics of the book/s.
- ☐ A Matching Game with books and characters (see Dr. Seuss Characters & Creatures). For younger students, place all the characters on one paper and have them match to the book. For older students place the characters on separate papers and see how many characters they can match to the correct books.
- ☐ Door Hangers or Book Marks with Dr. Seuss characters to color and personalize.
- ☐ Book Walk: Dr. Seuss characters on the floor for the place markers and Dr. Seuss books as the prizes.
- ☐ Classroom doors are each decorated as a book cover of a Dr. Seuss book.
- ☐ Reader's Theatre with a Seuss book.
- ☐ Reading Cafe' with a Dr. Seuss book at each table. Those reading GREEN EGGS AND HAM are served green eggs and ham. Those reading HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! are served birthday cake, etc.